

The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

"The oldest continuously meeting Amateur Radio Club in the United States"

Reporting news from the Annual Indianapolis Radio Club meeting held on Friday, April 8th, 2005, and other items of possible interest to amateurs.

April Meeting Highlights:

The March meeting of the Indianapolis Radio Club was held on Friday, April 8th, 2005 on the 1st floor of the Indianapolis Training Center. Fresh coffee was provided by the Training Center, and at least four boxes of donuts and dozens of cookies were provided by the club. A large group gathered prior to the meeting to enjoy the coffee, donuts, and good fellowship while catching up on the latest local radio news. Members did an excellent job of signing in on the member checklist and updating email addresses. Chuck Crist (W9IH), the club president, called the meeting to order at 7:31pm. He extended a warm welcome to regular members, new members, and guests. Chuck reminded those gathered about the club theme, to become "Radio Active in 2005." Members were asked to introduce themselves, and the introductions progressed in turn around the room. The total attendance for the March meeting was 67, with 43 reporting ARRL membership. The engraved name badges that had been previously ordered arrived in time for the meeting, and were distributed to members by Barbara Crist (KB9BSV), wife of the club president, at the check-in table. Other meeting notes of interest, including a brief write-up on the April program, "Remote Control of HF Radio Gear," presented by Hank Wolf (K9LZJ) and Gary Strouder (K9SG), appear below.

Next Meeting:

Friday, May 13th, 2005. Coffee time begins at 7:00 PM on the 1st floor dining area of the Indianapolis Training Center (ITC). The business meeting will begin promptly at 7:30pm. The program for the next meeting is entitled "Robotics Today", and will be presented by Dan Daly (KE9Y), who will be introduced by recent bridegroom Dave Miller, club vice-president.

Membership Drive and Refinements:

The Membership Drive covers period from now through November 3rd, 2005. Any IRC member that recruits 3 new IRC Regular Members will receive 1 Free Meal Pass for the 2005 December Annual Dinner meeting. A New Regular Member is defined as someone who joins the IRC and who has not been an IRC member since January of 2002. [Extending a membership to include 'new' family members does not count. Sorry! --Ed.]

Dayton Hamvention Bus Trip:

The Chuck Crist (W9IH) announced that round trip bus transportation has been arranged for the Dayton Hamvention. Current plans call for the bus to leave at 6:00am and return at 7:00pm on Saturday, May 21st. The estimated cost of the round trip is \$15 per seat. Reservations must be secured by check. Sufficient seats have been sold that the trip is a "Go". It is a very nice bus with the conveniences of a home, including indoor plumbing! There is lots of room in the lower luggage area for you to store your Hamvention purchases. Further details are available on the Indianapolis Radio Club web site at www.indyradioclub.org. A few seats are still available, so if you are still interested in securing a seat on the trip, you should contact Chuck Crist (W9IH), club president, ASAP. His email address is indvtrax@core.com.

Club Station Report:

The club Chief Operator is Trevor Fulk (N9YM), who maintains the club station. The equipment is located on the first floor of the Indianapolis Training Center, while the antennas are located on the roof of the building. The station transceiver is a Yeasu HF unit, and the antenna is a directional beam for 10-15-20m that is mounted on a small tower and rotor on the building roof. That makes its height about 150 feet above ground. Tours of the club station are available following most Indianapolis Radio Club meetings. The club station call is W9JP.

Additional Club Station Transceiver Needed:

The club is seeking an additional transceiver and power supply for the club station in order to improve the potential contacts during contest operation. If you know of someone who might have an HF rig that could be donated for use in the club station, please contact Chuck Crist (W9IH), club president, at indytrax@core.com.

New Ham:

Matt Perkins (KC9HKT) was the newest ham in attendance at the April club meeting.

New Club Members:

The club Board of Directors considered the recent club membership applications at its most recent meeting. All applications were approved. These new club members are:

New Life Member:

Beurt Servaas (W9WVO), former president of the Indianapolis City Council and longtime ham radio operator, is a new LIFE member of the club.

Indiana QSO Party:

A QSO Party for Indiana hams is being planned for May 7th. Watch the club website (www.indyradioclub.org) for details.

Club Secretary Duties Extended:

At the February 2005 Board Meeting, the duties of the IRC Secretary, Mike Henney, were extended to include the collection and dissemination of club Health and Welfare information. Members are asked to report any such information related to club members to Mike, whose email address is. Board Member Paul Bohrer (W9DUU) continues with his responsibilities for the Phone Committee. Any information he receives on Health and Welfare through his Telephone Committee activities should be forwarded to Mike Henney at the email address previously given.

Announcements:

- The IRC June Auction is in the planning stage. Meanwhile, prepare to dig out your historical hardware items of special interest to others (technical term for junk) so that they might become someone else's treasure!
- Summer Picnic is planned for Saturday, August 6th, 2005, at Joe and Betty Labraico's place in Broad Ripple. This is another great chance for fellowship and fun with other amateur radio enthusiasts near the end of the coming long, hot summer.
- Board Member Paul Bohrer (W9DUU) continues with his responsibilities for the Phone Committee. Any information he receives on Health and Welfare through his Telephone Committee activities should be forwarded to Mike Henney (KE9YA) at his email address mickyh@peoplepc.com. If you have any such announcements or information about which the Phone Committee should be made aware, please forward it to Paul. His email address is w9duu@juno.com.
- Volunteers are needed to teach an express Tech no-code amateur radio class at the ITC. Interested volunteers should contact the club president, Chuck Crist (W9IH). His email is indytrax@core.com.
- ARRL Field Day exercises will be held the last week of June at Fort Benjamin Harrison, according to information supplied by Tom Frank (N9JQH). The approximate location will be at 59th Street and Lee. The IRC is not organizing any activities for Field Day. However, there will be plenty of activity by local hams. Field Day sites will be posted on the IRC webpage. We encourage you to find a group and join in! More details will be provided later. Meanwhile, please mark your calendar.
- Amateur Volunteers are needed to support the Mini Marathon radio activities on May 7th. Because of meeting deadlines, volunteers will meet once, sometime in mid-to-late April, to receive assignments, to ask questions, and to receive T-shirts and credentials. Other Marion County Ham Radio Announcements can be found on the website at www.IndyHams.org. This website has links to other ham radio sites, including local and neighboring county clubs

and emergency radio groups. Use that web site to find events that need volunteers. To volunteer, contact Michael Palmer (N9FEB) at www.IndyHams.org or at 317-849-3602.

Planning for Radio Commemorative to USS Indianapolis:

A committee has been formed to coordinate a radio tribute commemorating the 60th anniversary of the USS Indianapolis. It will be part of a special operating event called "Warships on the Air." The USS Indianapolis Special Event Station will operate on Saturday and Sunday, July 16th and 17th. This is a joint operation by the Indianapolis Radio Club, the Indianapolis Radio League, and RCA Radio Club. Operating modes will be: CW, SSB and AM on the 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10-meter bands. Operating slots will be 2 hours long with up to 4 hours consecutive operation permitted. Please let us know if you can help operate the station so that the USS Indianapolis Special Event Station can be on the air the entire 48 hours of the special event.

Health and Welfare:

- Art Hopkins (WA9VQO) became a Silent Key. He had been an active ham, and had served for many years as the Indiana Section legislative liaison.
- Two local hams, Bill Brinkman (AA9UV) and JR Osborn (KB9HSE), have been hospitalized.

Club Webmaster:

Brian Stone (KC9GSA) is the manager of our Indianapolis Radio Club web site (www.indyradioclub.org). If you have content ideas or suggestions for the site, please contact Brian using his email address of labradog@speakeasy.net.

Monthly Club Traveling Awards Presented for April:

As reported by Mike Henney (KE9YA), IRC Secretary

- Mentor –Patrick Ritchie (KC9GAB), for his work with the ITC Express ham class, the members of which have selected the groupname "Hamsters".
- Homebrew –Jim Rinehart (K9RU)
- QRP – Steve Wendt (KB9RDS), for his contact with US5D (Ukraine) on 17m SSB at 2200UTC
- Digital – Steve Heininger (N9OI), for his contact PSK with UA9NO on 20m using 35W, a distance of 5276 miles
- DX – Mike Henney (KE9YA), for his contact with YZ2X (Serbia) on 14.217 USB using 100W

Congratulations to each of the monthly club traveling trophy award winners!

Homebrew Award Selection Criteria:

Club Vice-President Dave Miller (K9TTY) announced that future Homebrew entries would be judged on the basis of the quality of construction and soldering, the schematic diagram, operating instructions, and for antennas, the antenna radiation pattern and SWR chart, if applicable.

Club Hats Available:

In celebration of the IRC's 90th Anniversary, club hats with an embroidered club logo are available for purchase for \$20. The articles seen by this reporter were baseball style hats in several available colors, with black lettering, and appeared to be very well made. If you wish to purchase one of these hats, be sure to come to the next club meeting and bring some extra money! You will be helping to support your club if you buy one of these hats.

Amateur Radio Classes:

- An amateur radio class is in the planning stage, with the class date targeted for late May. It will be an express class at the ITC. Details are being formulated. Please contact Chuck Crist (W9IH) if you know of potential students. You can reach Chuck at his email address of indytrax@core.com.
- A small Radio Study Group is meeting at 9:00 AM on Wednesdays at the McDonalds at 116th and I-69 to discuss questions and answers on amateur radio. All are welcome. For more information, contact Tom Price (WB9UNG) at 849-6550, or Estel Hines (KC9GMV) at 765-289-8333.

Door Prizes:

A number of fabulous door prizes, including a multifunction meter, work gloves, and other prizes were collected by the club prize-master, Bob Osterhous (W9PSE). These and other interesting prizes were distributed by a drawing to randomly selected members of the IRC who were in attendance. An incomplete list of prizewinners, as reported

by Mike Henney (KE9YA), IRC Secretary, included: Jesse -one of the ITC "Hamsters", Vern Daly (K9CMJ), Sam Carter (WA9VBG), Andrew -another one of the ITC "Hamsters", Bob Bouterse (WD8RDE), Gavin Roberts (W9EYE), and John Lee (W9GRE).

You can learn more about the potential benefits of the door prize distribution process by attending the next IRC meeting! Thanks to Bob Osterhous for doing such a great job locating interesting prizes for this exciting portion of the club meetings.

Program: "Remote Control of HF Radio Gear"

This program, by Hank Wolfa (K9LZJ) and Gary Strouder (K9SG), presented a fascinating combination of equipment, control disciplines and internet technologies to allow remote access and control of their remote amateur radio station. The remote station consists of a Force 12 10/15/20/40 antenna and rotor atop a 90ft Rohn tower, an HF transceiver, antenna coax and switches needed to connect the radio equipment. Control of the station is provided by a high-speed internet connection that is supported through an 802.11 radio link. The internet link provides password-protected access to the HF station and its control. The internet link also provides two-way voice transmission between the remote control site and the station. Using the described equipment and additional technical knowledge allows the station to be turned on and operated from anywhere in the world that supports the required high-speed internet connection.

The audio internet link is implemented using the SKIPE program and a PC sound card at both end of the internet link. The station control link uses commonly available HF station control software that can be accessed remotely using standard internet remote access and password facilities.

Additional station facilities include a vertical 80m antenna, a 4-element stepper antenna for 20m-6m coverage, a 6-element 6m beam, an R7 trap vertical antenna, and access to 6m, 2m, and 440MHz equipment that can also be remotely controlled. Access to EchoLink is also available at the remote radio station site.

Considering that both Cary and Hank both have demanding full-time professional careers, they have managed to assemble an amazing and highly functional array of radio equipment that can be operated remotely---all in their spare time! Immediately following their presentation to the club, the two presenters, accompanied by club member Tom Chance (K9XV), adjourned to complete final preparations for a DXpedition to Curacao to operate as PJ2T. The radio gear they plan to operate there includes 10, 15, and 20m moonbeams (one aimed at Europe, the other aimed at the USA), a 60m antenna, an 80m loop, a 160m loop, and an 80/160m beverage antenna. Tom Chance has offered to write a newsletter article about his experiences while on the trip.

Thanks from all in attendance to Hank Wolfa (K9LZJ) and Gary Strouder (K9SG) for the clear insight into one future aspect of amateur radio that they provided to the club through this program.

Puzzle History:

Puzzle #1 was solved by Robert Begeman (W9KVK), in February.

Puzzle #2 was solved by Robert Aubel (WV9V) in January.

Puzzle #3 was solved by Ed Conder (N9IZN) and Charles Sears (N9MEW), also in February.

Puzzle #4 is as yet unsolved, and is reprinted below.

Puzzle #5 is as yet unsolved, and is reprinted below.

Puzzle #6 is new.

A list of past puzzles and solutions is being developed and will be available on the club web site in the near future. Each of the past puzzle solvers is invited to attend a monthly puzzle roundtable lunch meeting at a mutually agreeable time and place to be determined at the monthly club meeting. If you have a solution to any of the unsolved puzzles listed below, or if you have an interesting puzzle and want it printed in a future puzzle article, please submit it to the IRC Newsletter Editor, at pricetr@comcast.net. A free lunch will be awarded to the first correct analytical solution received for any of the new or unsolved puzzles. A tie-breaking prize drawing will be held if there is more than one correct solution received on the same day. However, all who submit correct answers will be invited to lunch at the monthly puzzle roundtable.

Puzzle #4: (Unsolved):

Fold a rectangular piece of paper so that one corner exactly meets the diagonally opposite corner. If the rectangular paper has a length of b and a width of a , what is the ratio (b/a) if the length of the fold is exactly the same length as the length, b , of the paper? Clue: the correct answer is $(b/a) = \sqrt{(1 + \sqrt{5})} / 2$. All you need to do is show why!

Puzzle #5: (Unsolved):

Two large identical and perfect spheres are being prepared for an experimental radio antenna project. A thin wire is to be strung so as to completely surround first sphere at its equator, and is cut so that it just fits snugly. How much longer must a second wire be cut so that it will fit around the equator of the second sphere and stand above the surface by exactly 1 ft. at all points, if the diameter of the two spheres is (a) 10 ft.?; (b) 100 ft.?; (c) 1000 ft.?; (d) 7926 miles?

Puzzle #6 (New!):

An antenna wire just fits around the Earth, which you may consider to be a perfect sphere with a diameter of 8000miles. If 1 meter is added to the length of the antenna wire, how tall must the antenna tower be so that the wire just fits over the top?

Any Additional News Items:

The editor would like to include three or four short articles in the May issue about your traditional Dayton Hamvention ritual, or your best bargain yet, or the newest hot item that caught your eye. Details will be forthcoming at the May 13th Club meeting. Also, if you have news that should be included in the next issue of club newsletter, please pass it on to your club newsletter editor, Tom Price (WB9UNG), at the email address pricetr@comcast.net.